

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 498

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 9247

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG AGREEMENT ON
SHORT TERM TACTICS

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP ON NOVEMBER 8 REVIEWED
TACTICAL POSITION IN VIENNA FOLLOWING TABLING OF
SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT IN PLENARY EARLIER SAME DAY.
DISCUSSION FOLLOWED LINES TAKEN ON PREVIOUS EVENING
(SEE VIENNA 9205). FOLLOWING DISCUSSION AD HOC
GROUP UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED FOLLOWING TEXT COVERING
TACTICAL TREATMENT OF SOVIET PROPOSAL AND NEXT
STEPS IN VIENNA FOR PRESENTATION TO THE NAC ON
NOVEMBER 9 BY FRG REP. IF TIME CONDITIONS PERMIT,

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SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT REQUEST USNATO TO SUPPORT

FRG REP'S PRESENTATION. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT ALLIES COME TO RAPID CLEAR DECISION ON NEXT STEPS IN VIENNA AND NOT CREATE IMPRESSION OF INDECISION OR INCAPACITY TO DEAL WITH UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS. IN ACTUALITY THOUGH MUCH OF CONTENT OF SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT IS NEGATIVE FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, FACT THAT IT WAS TABLED AT OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DEBATE MEANS THAT WE HAVE GAINED CONSIDERABLE TIME IN TERMS OF BEGINNING DISCUSSION OF HARD PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

POSSIBLE SHORT-TERM TACTICAL STEPS

I. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT IS EITHER DESIRABLE OR FEASIBLE FOR THE ALLIES TO TABLE A DRAFT AGREEMENT LIKE THE ONE THE SOVIETS TABLED TODAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DISCUSSION SHOULD, THEREFORE, PROBABLY FOCUS ON TWO ISSUES:

(A) WHAT IS OUR POSTURE TOWARDS THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN THE SHORT RUN? AT WHAT POINT SHOULD WE ADDRESS IT DIRECTLY?

(B) WHEN SHOULD WE PUT DOWN AN ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL?

II. A MAIN VARIABLE FACTOR WHICH MAY INFLUENCE, PERHAPS DECISIVELY, THE SELECTION OF OUR APPROACH IS THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS WILL NOT OCCUR, BUT WE CANNOT RELAY ON ITS NOT HAPPENING. IN CASE OF NEED, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO USE THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL BE PUBLISHED OR LEAKED MEANS IN ANY EVENT THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL READY FOR USE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

III. THE FOLLOWING APPROACH HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE AD-HOC-GROUP:

1. THE ALLIES COULD COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR THEMES BY 15 NOVEMBER AND AIM FOR EARLY TABLING OF AN ALLIED FRAMEWORK
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PROPOSAL IN MEMORANDUM FORM. PRIOR TO TABLING THIS MEMORANDUM, THE ALLIES WOULD PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THEIR STATEMENT UP TO THAT POINT. AFTER TABLING THE MEMORANDUM, THE ALLIES WOULD EMPHASIZE THE MERITS OF THE ALLIED POSITION AS SET FORTH IN THE FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL AS THE APPROPRIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY DELINEATED IN THE ALLIED THEME PRESENTATIONS. THEY WOULD DELIBERATELY AVOID DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A PERIOD.

2. IN THE EVENT THAT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO TABLE A
FRAMEWORK MEMORANDUM WITHING THE NEXT WEEKS, WE MAY HAVE TO
ADOPT AN APPROCH OF SUBSTANTIVE CRITICAL QUESTIONING AND DIRECT
CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD AIM
TOWARYDS TABLING OUR FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL, PRESENTING IT AS SUPERSEDING
AN EALIER EASTERN PROPOSAL WHOSE DEFICIENCIES HAD BEEN EXPOSED.HUMES

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